



ISSUE FIVE



EVAN NARCISSE - MIGUEL MENDONÇA - WIL QUINTANA

BATMAN *Static* BEYOND



13+
TEEN

DC COMICS FINALLY GOES MAD!

MAD ABOUT DC

**A 64-PAGE
ONE-SHOT**
CELEBRATION OF
COMICS, CHAOS
& QUESTIONABLE
DECISIONS

GUEST
EDITED BY
**CHIP
ZDARSKY!**



**ON SALE
APRIL 1
WHEREVER
COMICS ARE SOLD!**

NO WHOOPEE CUSHIONS INCLUDED

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ALSO AVAILABLE!



**VARIANT COVER
BY CHIP ZDARSKY**

STATIC! FOR YOUR ROLE IN THE ACT OF **TERRORISM** RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GLOBAL BLACKOUT, YOU ARE UNDER ARREST, BY ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT!

TERRORISM?! YOU'VE GOT BAD INTEL OR SOMETHING! JUST LET US **EXPLAIN!**

EXPLAIN ALL YOU WANT ONCE YOU'RE IN CUSTODY! YOU HAVE SIXTY SECONDS TO **SURRENDER** PEACEFULLY!

WE GOT PEOPLE EVERYWHERE WHO NEED HELP AND **THIS** IS WHAT Y'ALL ARE DOING?!

THAT MARTIAL LAW ANNOUNCEMENT MUST'VE GONE STRAIGHT TO SPAM.

THIRTY SECONDS!

THAT'S A LOT OF CADMUS OUT THERE. YOU GOT SOME BAT-SMOKE ON YOU?

YEAH, WITH ENHANCED NANOPARTICULATES THAT'LL SCRAMBLE THEIR SCANNING TECH.

SCHWAY. I'LL ADJUST SETTINGS ON THESE SHADES SO I WON'T BE FIGHTING BLIND.

BEEN USING THESE GAUNTLETS FOR EXPERIMENTS. SHOULD BE GOOD IN A FIGHT, TOO.

SO WE'LL TACKLE THE REGULAR DUDES AND STATIC ZAPS THEIR ARMORED BUDDIES--

IF THEY CAME TO GET STATIC, THEIR ARMOR'S GOTTA BE E.M.P.-SHIELDED.

FISTS TO FACES, THEN. LET'S DO THIS.

THEY'RE POPPING SMOKE, COMMANDER DRAPER! WE'RE LOSING VISUAL!



GO!
GO!
GO!



RESISTING ARREST
WILL ONLY MAKE
THINGS WORSE!

SAYS THE DUDE NOT
DOING ANYTHING TO MAKE
THINGS BETTER!



THESE CADMUS GUYS
REMINDE ME OF THE SHIFTY FEDS THAT
TRIED ROLLING UP AGAINST US AFTER
THE BIG BANG.

WANNA
BET THERE'S
A CONNECTION
BETWEEN THAT
OPERATION AND
CADMUS?



HEY, EBON,
A SHADOW PORTAL
WOULD BE CLUTCH
RIGHT NOW!

AIN'T
HAPPENING,
RICHIE...ALL THESE
FLOODLIGHTS ARE
THROWING OFF MY
CONCENTRATION!
C-CAN'T FOCUS ON
CHANNELING THE
SHADOWS!



LEAVE
THOSE TO
ME...



...I'VE GOT A LOT OF EXPERIENCE WITH THIS KIND OF THING!



Kinda miss the targeting assist from my old Batsuit...

...but I didn't do all that target practice in the cave for nothing!



Guessing these generators are E.M.P.-shielded, too!



Always great when the jackboots screw themselves over!



HOW'S THE BAT JAMMING OUR SENSORS?! CAN'T GET A BEAD ON HIM!



SO MUCH FOR THAT GENERATOR!



I'LL KEEP CADMUS FOCUSED ON ME--EBON, GET THAT PORTAL OPEN!



NOT BAD, BABY BAT. SHOULD BE DARK ENOUGH FOR ME TO SEND Y'ALL TO--

STOP!



UNGGH!



P-PUNK-ASS FEDS...

YOU GUYS NEED TO GO! FIND SHUTDOWN! WE'LL HOLD IT DOWN HERE!



NEO-GOTHAM.

UH... WHERE...?

HNNH. THAT'S THE SPRANG RIVER OVER THERE. WE'RE IN THE NARROWS.

GRRRR!

HSSSSSS!

TK-TK-TK!

DUDE'S CRACKLING WITH HELLA JUICE...



...BUT HE'S NO
REAL EEL. THIS OTHER
DUDE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE
ANY BAT I'VE EVER
SEEN, EITHER.

NORMIES!

TRESPASSERS!

IMPOSTORS!



AND WE ALL
KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO
NORMIES IN THE BOWERY,
RIGHT?



ROAAARR!

JUST
WAIT A
SEC--!



WFFF



NO BLOOD
WILL BE SPILLED TONIGHT! THIS IS
MERELY OUR FRIEND THE BATMAN
IN A NEW SKIN!

I DON'T LOOK
THAT DIFFERENT, DO
I, TYBALT?



LATER.

APOLOGIES ABOUT THAT HOSTILE RECEPTION. FOOD'S BEEN SCARCE AND FOLKS BEEN ON EDGE.

ELI'S RIGHT. THE VENDORS WHO WEREN'T SCARED OF US STOPPED COMING TO THE NARROWS.



SEEMS LIKE THE BLACKOUT'S HIT Y'ALL PRETTY HARD...

LOTS OF OUR PACK HAVE GONE MISSING AND THE NUMBER'S GONE WAY UP SINCE THE BLACKOUT.

EVEN THE NOCTURNALS WITH NIGHT VISION CAN'T SEE WHO'S SNATCHING 'EM.



WE'RE WORKING ON RESTORING POWER, FRIEND. JUST NEED TO TRACK DOWN SOMEONE WHO COULD HELP.

THE SOONER, THE BETTER, BATMAN. YOU KNOW ALL WE GOT IS EACH OTHER OUT HERE.



DANG, THIS ALL REMINDS ME OF WHAT DAKOTA WENT THROUGH AFTER THE BIG BANG.

LOTS OF HATE GETS DIRECTED AT THESE FOLKS SO I TRY TO KEEP TABS ON 'EM. WITH THIS MANY MISSING, GOTTA BE A BIGGER PLAYER IN THE MIX.



KAW!
H-HELP!
BA-KAW!!





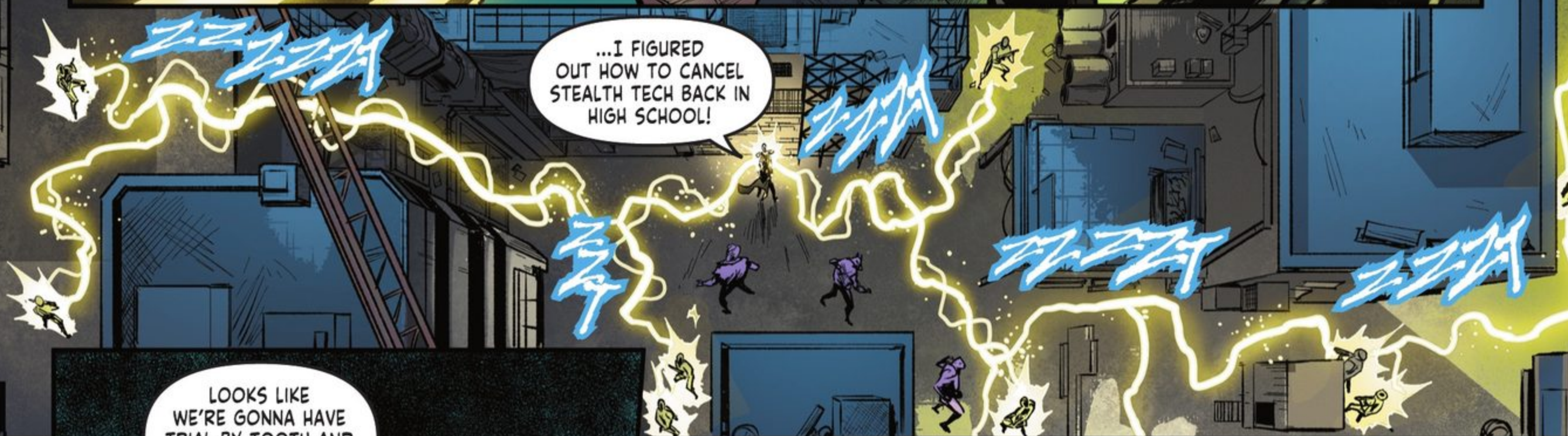
WHY'S CADMUS
SNATCHING PEOPLE
OUT HERE?!

COMMAND
HAD US DEPLOYED IN
NEO-GOTHAM BECAUSE
THEY GOT WORD OF
A NEW ALPHA-LEVEL
METAHUMAN!

WE'RE SWEEPING
THE NARROWS BECAUSE
IT'S A KNOWN HAVEN FOR
GENETICALLY MODIFIED
PEOPLE!



"WE," HUH?
TOO BAD FOR
Y'ALL...



...I FIGURED
OUT HOW TO CANCEL
STEALTH TECH BACK IN
HIGH SCHOOL!



LOOKS LIKE
WE'RE GONNA HAVE
TRIAL BY TOOTH AND
CLAW *AFTER ALL*,
EVERYBODY!

HA! WE'RE NOT
AFRAID OF YOU
SPLICERS!

NOT
AFRAID...?



...*YOU*
WILL BE!

WE'LL
MAKE YOU BAAAAD
GUYS *PAY*!



FREAKIN' DREGS!
MESS WITH THE NEST AND GET
SLAGGED LIKE THE REST!

YO! CAREFUL WITH
THE WATTAGE, ELI! DEAD
SOLDIERS ARE A PROBLEM
Y'ALL DON'T NEED!



AAAAAAH!

TS
SSSSSSSS

IT'S
BURNING THROUGH
EVERYTHING!



FIRST, DAKOTA...
NOW, HERE?! Y'ALL NEED
TO STOP COMING INTO
PLACES UNINVITED!

ZZZZZZ
HHHKKK



LOOKS
LIKE THAT'S
EVERYONE.



THESE GUYS PROBABLY HAVE
TRACKER-TAGS AND YOU FOLKS
CAN'T BE HERE WHEN CADMUS
COMES LOOKING. YOU GUYS
GOT SOMEWHERE ELSE
SAFE TO GO?

YEAH, THE NARROWS
GOT LOTS OF ABANDONED
BUILDINGS. MOST NORMIES
ARE TOO SCARED TO
SQUAT OUT HERE.

HEY, ELI,
LET'S TALK FOR
A SEC.



LISTEN, I REALLY RESPECT Y'ALL TRYING TO LIVE LIFE ON YOUR OWN TERMS AND WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO BUILD TOGETHER.

Y'KNOW, IF YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR FRIENDS SAFE, THERE'S MORE YOU CAN DO.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



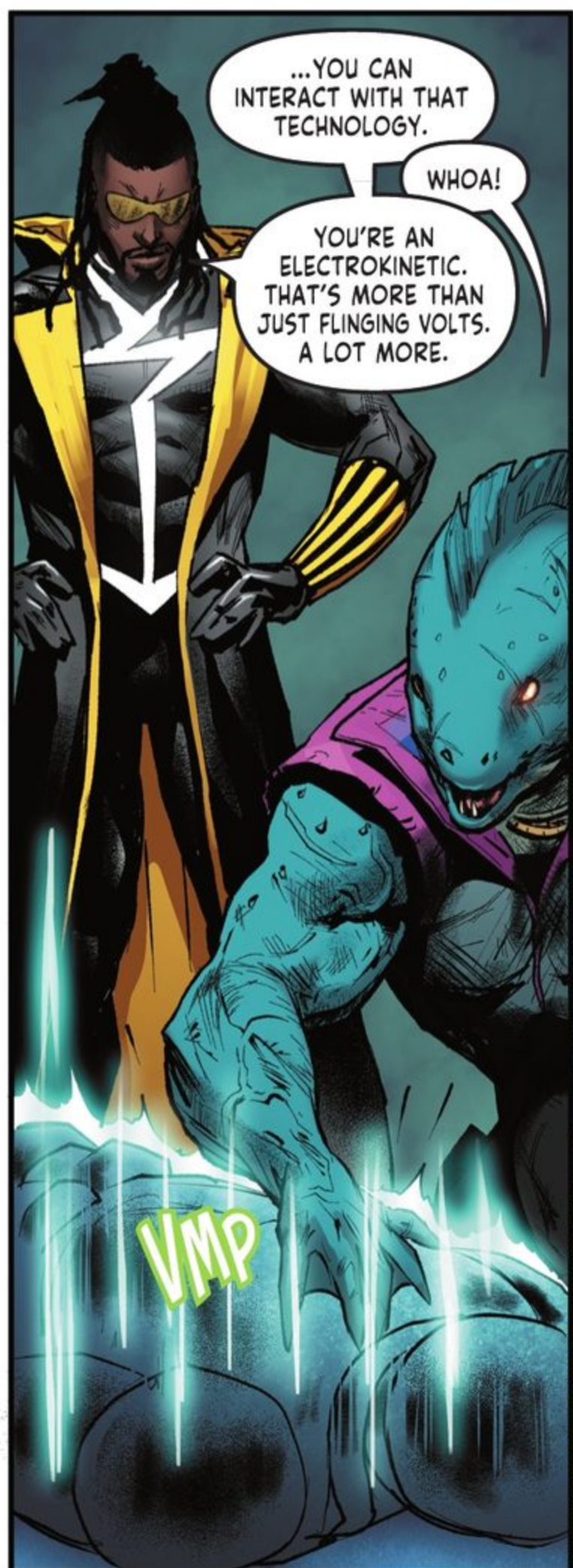
POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE CHARGES MOVE THROUGH EVERYTHING. FOLKS LIKE US CAN SENSE AND SHIFT THAT MOVEMENT. FEEL THAT LITTLE TINGLE?

Y-YEAH...

THE STEALTH TECH IN THIS ARMOR OSCILLATES VISIBLE LIGHT FREQUENCIES.



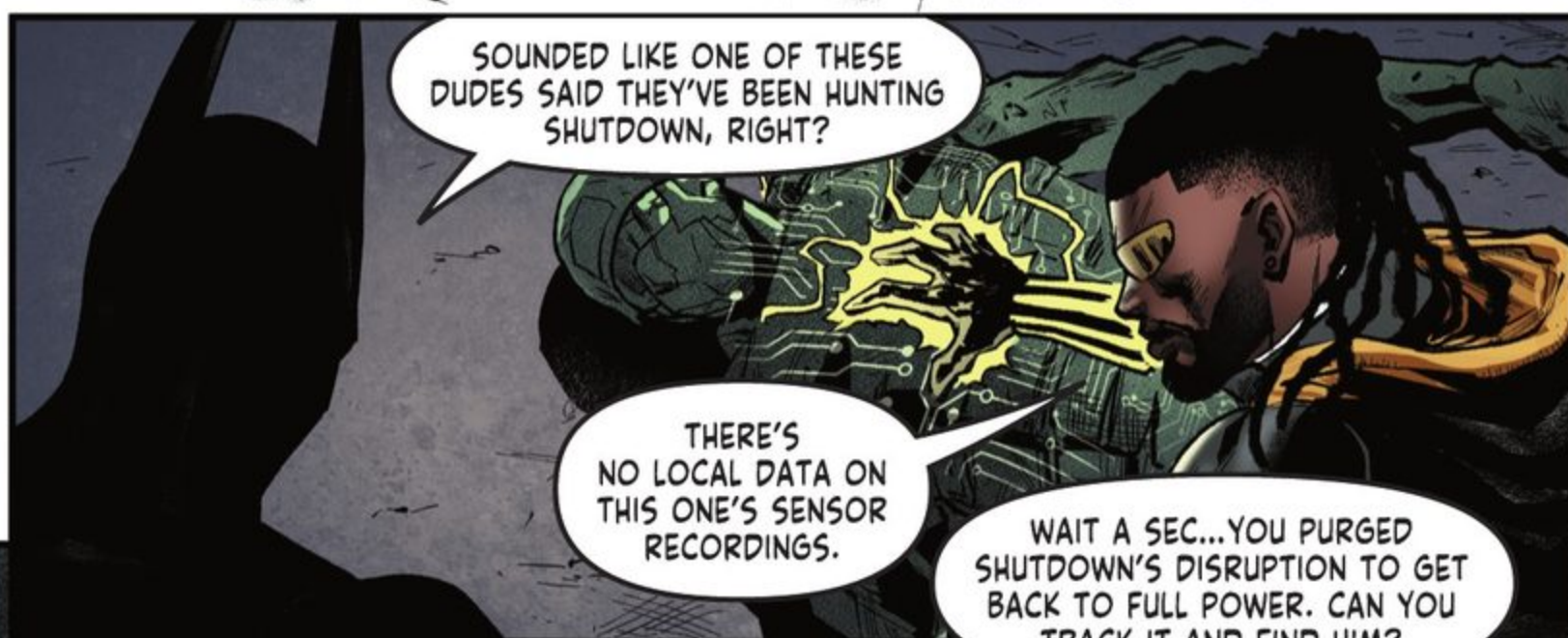
IF YOU CONCENTRATE...



...YOU CAN INTERACT WITH THAT TECHNOLOGY.

WHOA!

YOU'RE AN ELECTROKINETIC. THAT'S MORE THAN JUST FLINGING VOLTS. A LOT MORE.



SOUNDED LIKE ONE OF THESE DUDES SAID THEY'VE BEEN HUNTING SHUTDOWN, RIGHT?

THERE'S NO LOCAL DATA ON THIS ONE'S SENSOR RECORDINGS.

WAIT A SEC...YOU PURGED SHUTDOWN'S DISRUPTION TO GET BACK TO FULL POWER. CAN YOU TRACK IT AND FIND HIM?



HMM...THAT DISRUPTION'S RUNNING ALL THROUGH THE GLOBAL ENERGY GRID. GONNA MAKE HIM HARD TO TRACK.

STILL, IT'S PROBABLY OUR BEST BET FOR FINDING SHUTDOWN...

 "...NO TELLING
WHERE HE
MIGHT BE."

Two lousy Zetas and
not a human in sight.

Cops must be running around
"keeping the city safe" with
all your little bot buddies.

Wasn't expecting it to be so easy
to get in here. But I guess nobody
cares about what went down here.
Not even Mom and Dad.

They don't know how this
blackout really started with
what happened to me.

Mom and Dad and this
whole sprocking city
are about to learn what
happens when they care
more about their jobs
than anything else!



YOU WOULD BE MORE EFFICIENT WITH A TABLET OR LAPTOP, MELVIN.

EFFICIENT MEANS MAX PRODUCTIVITY!



MATTHEW, I DON'T WANT THAT DAMN THING AROUND MELVIN!

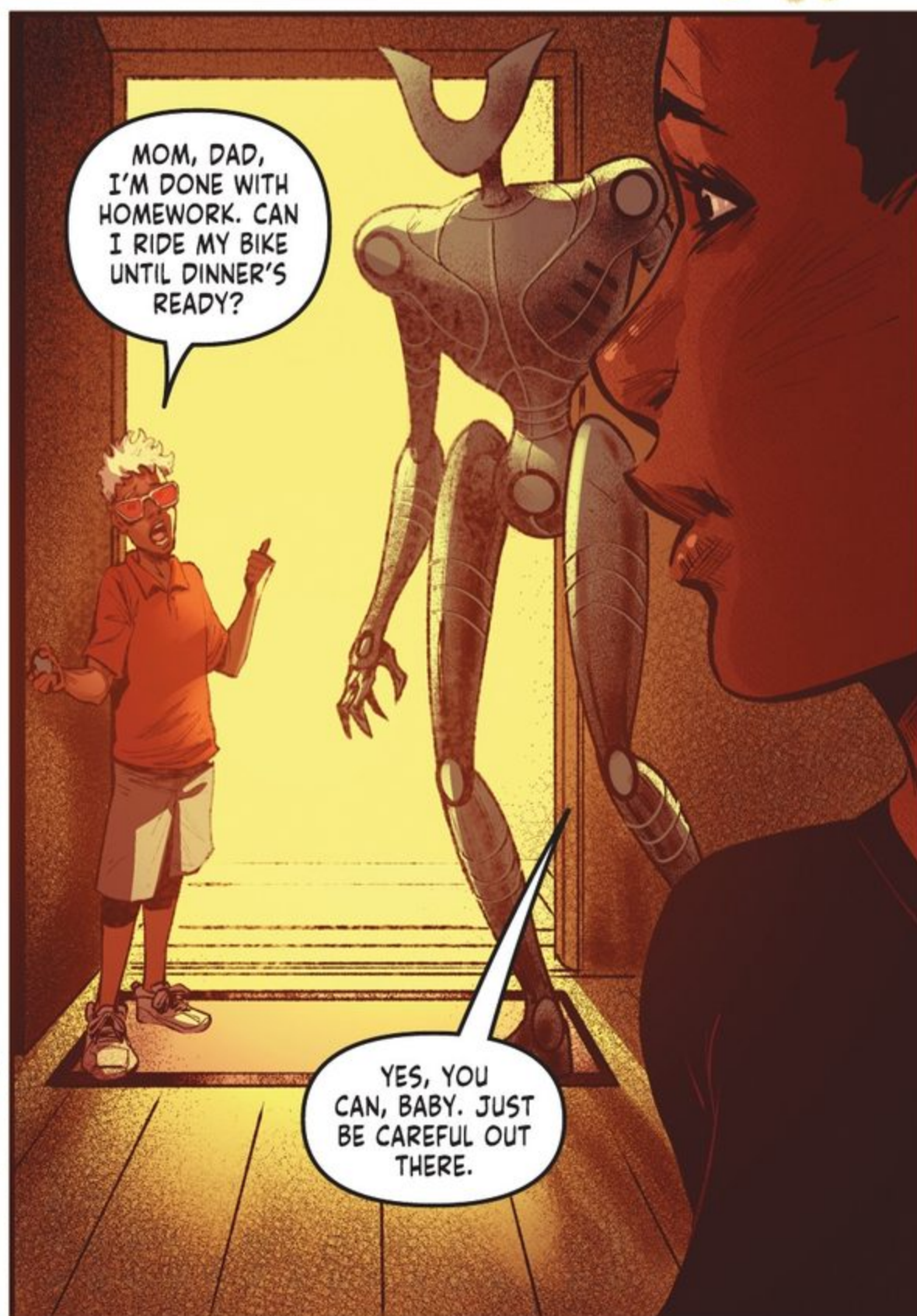
SAME, DEB. BUT LEADERSHIP GHOSTS FOLKS WHO OPT OUT OF DATA INTAKE!

UGH, NOT AGAINNNNN... I KNOW WHAT "EFFICIENT" MEANS!



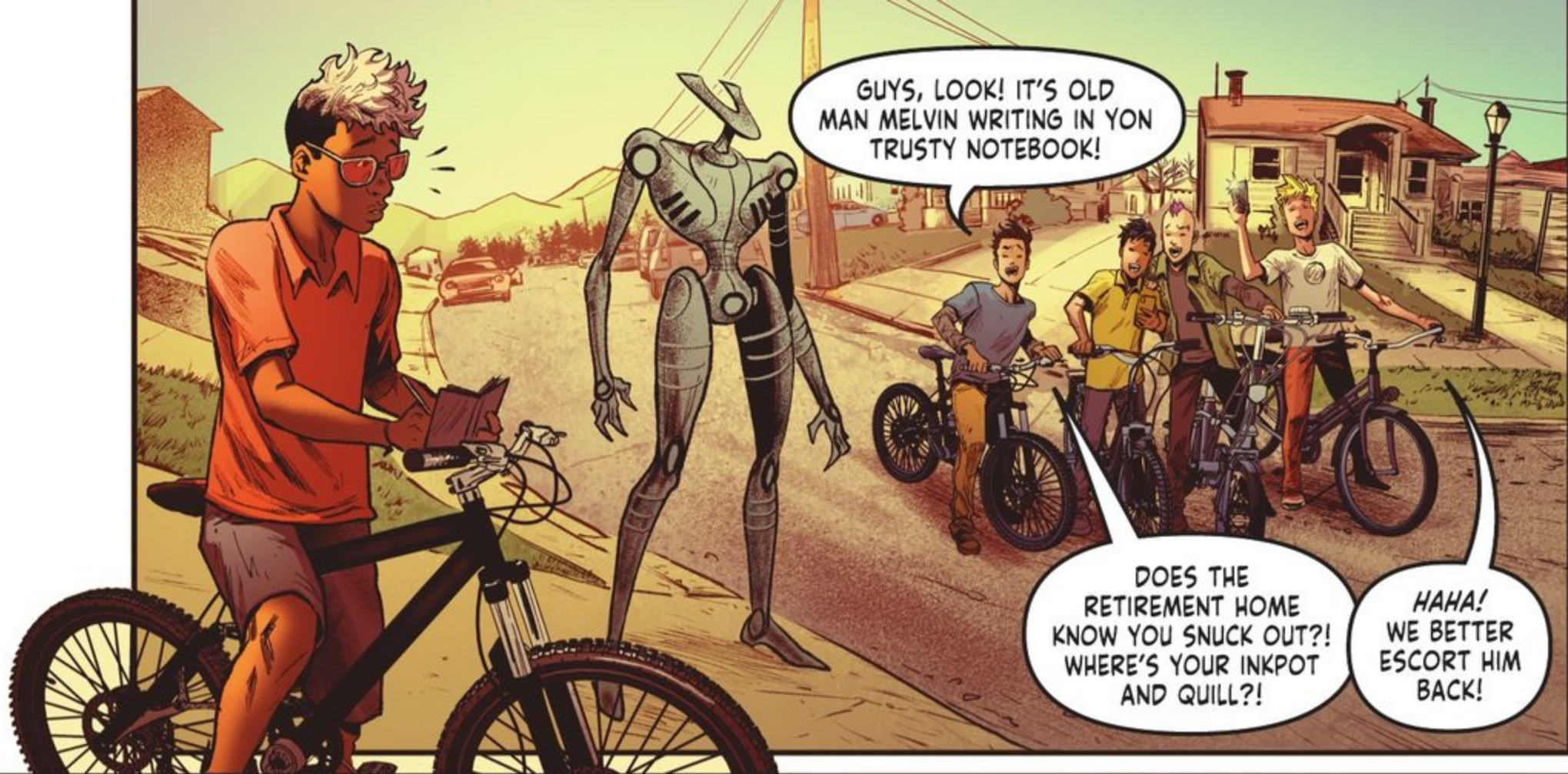
THIS COULD BE HOW WE JUMP FROM FREELANCERS TO FULL-TIMERS! YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MOVE MEANS!

OF COURSE I DO! BUT HE'S ALREADY SO SENSITIVE AND THAT ZETA'S THROWING OFF HIS WHOLE ROUTINE!



MOM, DAD, I'M DONE WITH HOMEWORK. CAN I RIDE MY BIKE UNTIL DINNER'S READY?

YES, YOU CAN, BABY. JUST BE CAREFUL OUT THERE.



GUYS, LOOK! IT'S OLD MAN MELVIN WRITING IN YON TRUSTY NOTEBOOK!

DOES THE RETIREMENT HOME KNOW YOU SNUCK OUT?! WHERE'S YOUR INKPOT AND QUILL?!

HAHA! WE BETTER ESCORT HIM BACK!



GOT ANY CANDY IN YOUR POCKETS, OLD MAN MELVIN?!

WE JUST WANNA HELP YOU UPDATE YOUR PHONE!

CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING TO GET THEM TO LEAVE ME ALONE, UNIT-1?!

CURRENT PROTOCOLS [DATA INTAKE] DO NOT ALLOW ME TO INTERVENE.



AAAAH!



UH-OH! DID YOU BREAK A HIP, OLD MAN? MAYBE YOUR ZETABOT CAN HELP YOU!

CURRENT PROTOCOLS [DATA INTAKE] DO NOT ALLOW ME TO INTERVENE.

PFF, A LOSER ZETA FOR A LOSER DORK!

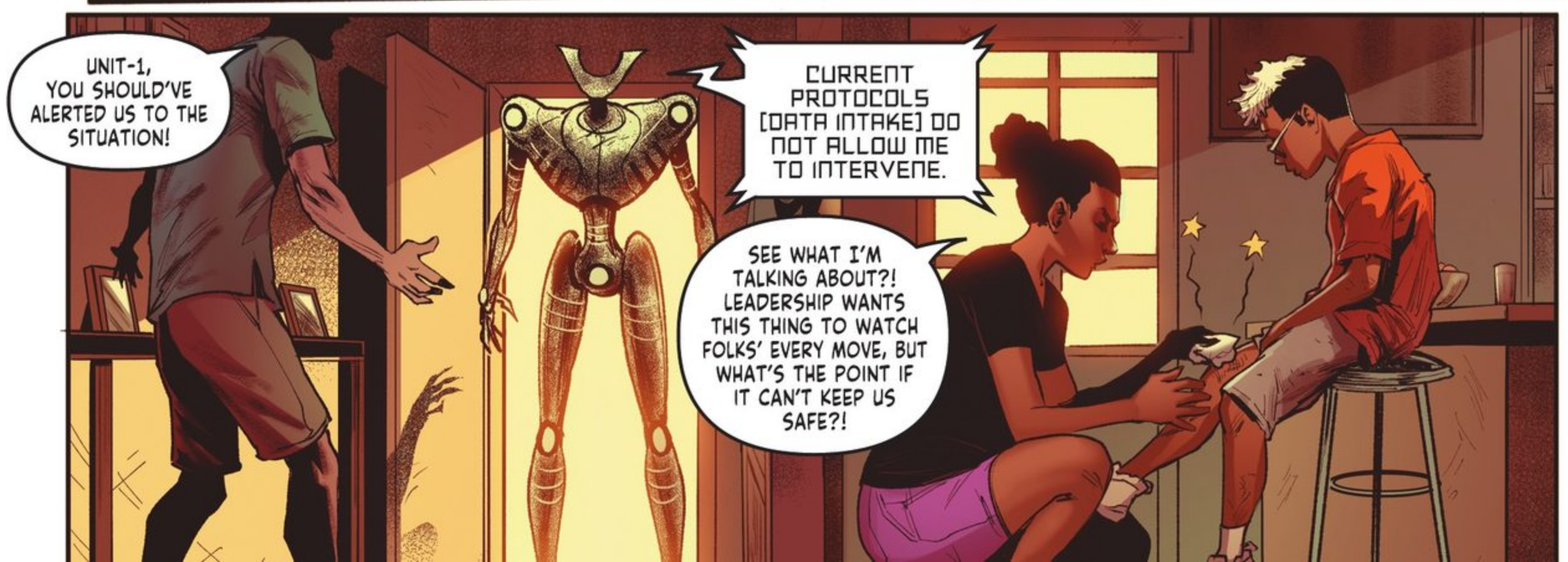
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, Y'ALL.



MELVIN?! WHAT HAPPENED?!

SOME OF THE OTHER KIDS... THEY--

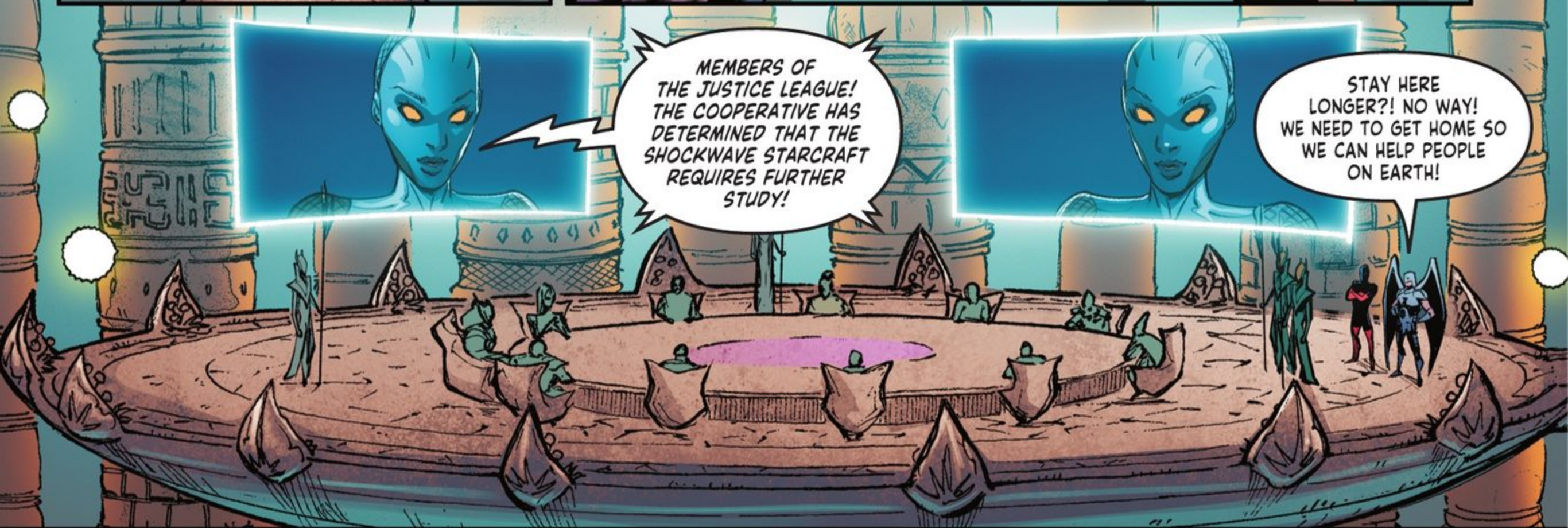
SHHH, IT'S OKAY, HONEY.



UNIT-1, YOU SHOULD'VE ALERTED US TO THE SITUATION!

CURRENT PROTOCOLS [DATA INTAKE] DO NOT ALLOW ME TO INTERVENE.

SEE WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT?! LEADERSHIP WANTS THIS THING TO WATCH FOLKS' EVERY MOVE, BUT WHAT'S THE POINT IF IT CAN'T KEEP US SAFE?!





I OVERHEARD THOSE TWO TALKING ABOUT FRAMING EARTH AS A THREAT TO GALACTIC ORDER!

THE REASON THEY DON'T WANT US TO GO BACK IS BECAUSE THEY WANT TO STEAL OUR TECH AND RESOURCES!



THE PLANET OF TAMARAN WILL NOT BROOK GOSSIP AND SLANDER FROM THIS DENIZEN OF A LOWER-TIER PLANET!

THE EARTHER HAZZZZ NO PROOF!



NEED I REMIND MEMBERS OF THIS BODY THAT, AS AN UNALIGNED PLANET, EARTH'S RESOURCES ARE THEIR OWN?

FURTHERMORE, ANY ISSUES PERTAINING TO XENOPOLITICAL BALANCE MUST BE PUT TO A FULL QUORUM VOTE.

THE COOPERATIVE PROMOTES PEACE AND PARTNERSHIP. CURRENT EVENTS ON EARTH, DIRE AS THEY MIGHT BE, PRESENT NO DANGER TO THE WIDER COSMOS.



IN LIGHT OF THESE ALLEGATIONS, THIS BODY NEEDS TIME TO CONSIDER EARTH'S ADMISSION INTO THE COOPERATIVE.

AS SUCH, THE CONTINGENT FROM SOL-3 IS FREE TO RETURN TO THEIR NATIVE STAR SYSTEM.



PFAH! THESE OTHER MEMBER PLANETS LACK OUR VISION!

WE MOVE TO THE CONTINGENCY THEN...



SENSING STRONGER TRACES OF SHUTDOWN'S ENERGY HERE. NICE TO SEE THAT NEO-GOTHAM HIGH SCHOOLS STILL HAVE THAT "ABANDON ALL HOPE" VIBE.

I THINK WE INVENTED IT, ACTUALLY. WORKS BEST WHEN A BLACKOUT KEEPS EVERYBODY AWAY.



BUT, SERIOUSLY, WHY WOULD HE COME BACK TO YOUR SCHOOL?

NO IDEA...

HOLD ON, MELVIN AND I WERE IN THIS ROOM FOR A.P. HUMAN GEOGRAPHY INDEPENDENT STUDY LAST YEAR.

HE HANDED IN THIS PAPER AS PART OF A GROUP PROJECT WITH THIS KID DARRYL...

TODAY, IT'S READINGS ON ASYMMETRICAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN DAKOTA CITY.

I'VE RECEIVED PERMISSION SLIPS FROM YOUR PARENTS. YOU CAN LEAVE IF YOU BECOME UNCOMFORTABLE.

AND MISS OUT ON THE LIES PROF. ROZUM TEACHES AS TRUTH? NO WAY.

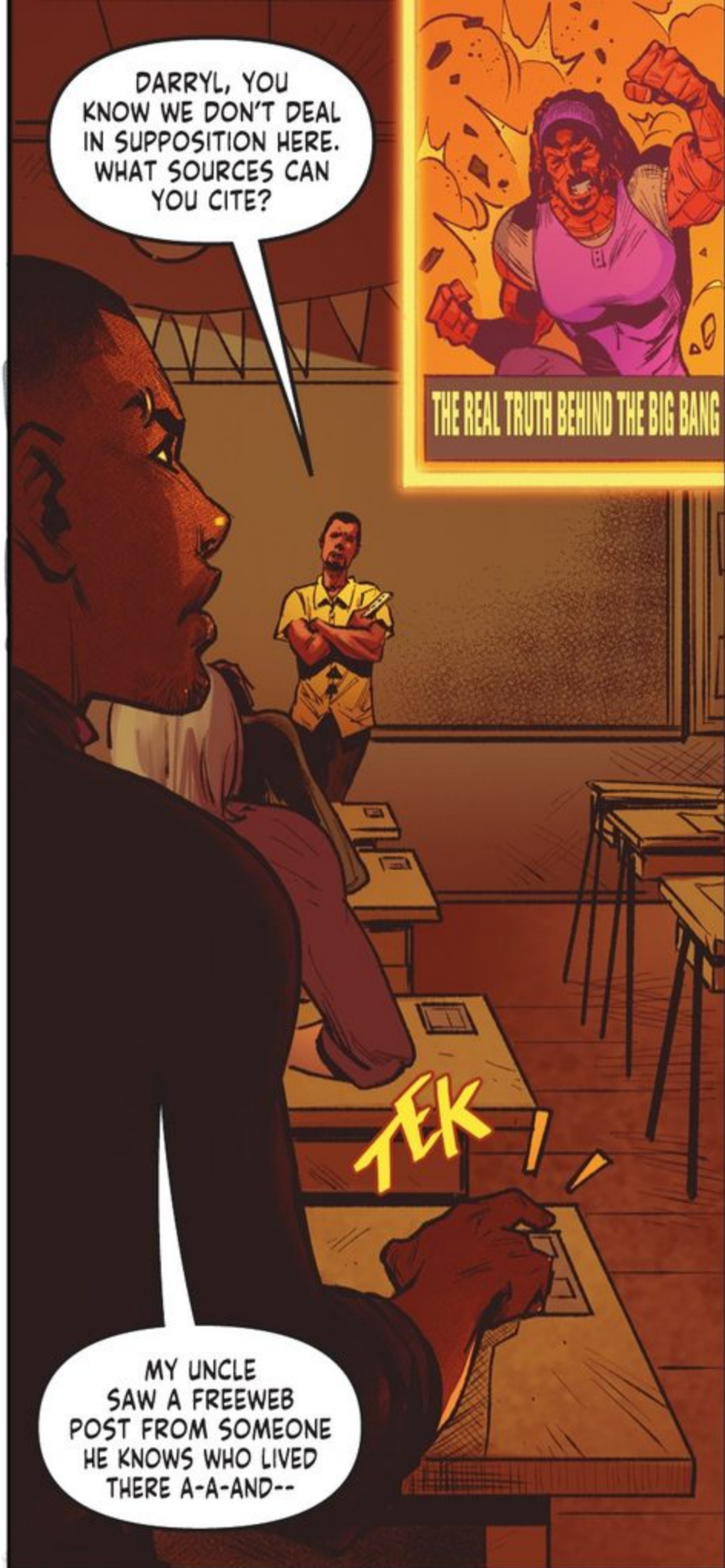


WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THE BIG BANG IN DAKOTA? MY UNCLE TOLD ME THOSE PEOPLE DID THAT TO THEMSELVES!

NOW THEY WANNA SPREAD THAT Q-JUICE EVERYWHERE! MAKE EVERYBODY FREAKS LIKE THEM!







SO WHAT'S THE
PLAN WHEN WE FIND MELVIN?
SLAP THE INHIBITOR ON HIM
AND THEN WHAT?

WHAT DO YOU
MEAN, "THEN WHAT"?
WE'LL TALK TO HIM AND SEE
IF HE CAN HELP TURN THE
POWER BACK ON.



YEAH, SURE,
BUT WHAT ARE WE
GONNA DO WITH HIM?
NO WAY ARKHAM COULD
HOLD HIM BUT VAULTS
AT S.T.A.R. LABS
MIGHT--

WHOA...
WHO SAID
ANYTHING ABOUT
LOCKING UP A
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT?



WE CAN'T JUST LET
HIM WALK AROUND
FREELY! HE'S TOO
DANGEROUS!

SO WE FIND OUT
WHY HE'S DANGEROUS.
WHAT'S HE NOT GETTING?
WHAT DOES HE CARE
ABOUT?



YOUR SHADY
PAL EBON BASICALLY
SAID THE SAME THING.
WHY'S THIS WHOLE "CARE"
THING SO IMPORTANT
TO YOU TWO?

PROBABLY
BECAUSE WE COME
FROM--

--A PLACE
IT FELT LIKE
NOBODY CARED
ABOUT.

REMEMBER
HOW I SAID YOU GOT
HIRED FOR A REASON?
THIS MIGHT BE YOUR
REASON, KID.





"...THE DARKNESS WILL TELL HIM WHO HE IS."

DAMMIT!
WHY WON'T THESE
BREAK?!



BECAUSE I'M
STOPPING ANY ENERGY
FROM MOVING THROUGH
THIS STATION.



COULDN'T DO
THAT FOR THE OTHER
STATIONS YOU DESTROYED,
SINCE I WASN'T THERE. BUT THE
SAFETY MEASURES PREVENTED
THE Q-JUICE FROM
GETTING OUT.

YOU TOOK US BY
SURPRISE IN DAKOTA.
YOUR ENERGY GOT TANGLED
UP WITH MINE AND, POOF,
BLACKOUT.

EXPLODING THESE
TANKS TO DO A BIG BANG IN
NEO-GOTHAM? THAT'S THE
"NEXT LESSON"?



MY PARENTS NEED TO
UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED
TO ME! SO WE CAN BE A
FAMILY AGAIN!

WHAT ABOUT THE
REST OF THE CITY AND THE
OTHERS WHO WOULD HAVE
BEEN AFFECTED?

I CARE ABOUT
THEM AS MUCH AS THEY
CARE ABOUT ME!



WE
NEVER STOPPED
BEING A FAMILY,
MELVIN...



...PLEASE
DON'T DO
THIS.

M-MOM...
DAD? WHY ARE
YOU HERE WITH
THEM?!



WHAT'S THE POINT OF ALL THIS? WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH?

EVERYBODY NEEDS TO KNOW WHAT THAT CRAP CAN DO!



YOUR BUDDY SAID Q-JUICE WAS DANGEROUS? THEY WERE RIGHT. DID THEY KNOW WHAT WE WERE TRYING TO DO, WHO WE WERE TRYING TO HELP? HEARD FROM THESE EXPERTS AT ALL?

YOU DESTROYED THE Q-GRID IN MULTIPLE LOCATIONS. TELL ME, DID YOU SEE MASS MUTATIONS IN OPAL OR FAWCETT?



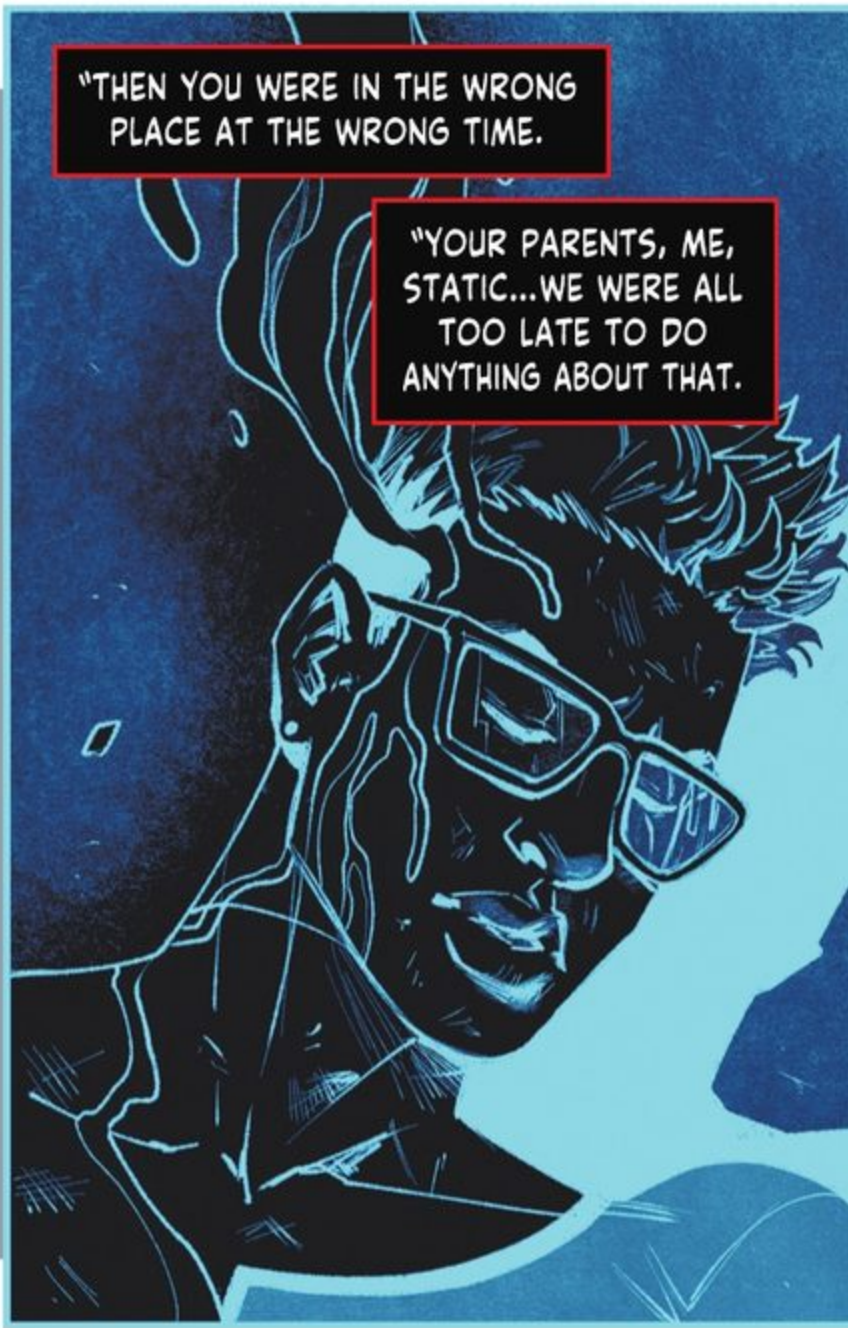
WERE THERE A BUNCH OF BANG BABIES IN CENTRAL CITY?

DID YOU CHECK IN ON THE PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES WERE SUPPOSEDLY GOING TO BE RUINED?

I...



"YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS GOT FED A LITTLE BIT OF TRUTH AND A WHOLE LOT OF FEAR."



"THEN YOU WERE IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME."

"YOUR PARENTS, ME, STATIC...WE WERE ALL TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT."



"YOUR FEAR TURNED INTO ANGER. THAT BECAME MORE REAL THAN ANYTHING ELSE."

"AND WHY SHOULD YOU LET GO OF SOMETHING THAT FEELS REAL, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE WORLD'S GOING TO HELL?"



"BUT YOU CAN MAKE SOMETHING ELSE FEEL REAL, FOR YOURSELF AND ALL THOSE SCARED PEOPLE TRYING TO SURVIVE IN THE DARKNESS. YOU CAN MAKE HOPE REAL."



JUST COME HOME WITH US, SON. PLEASE. WE'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.

LIKE WHAT?! EVERYWHERE I GO, SOME DEVICE OR APP IS SCREAMING AT ME! I CAN'T LIVE IN THIS WORLD! IT HAS TO CHANGE!

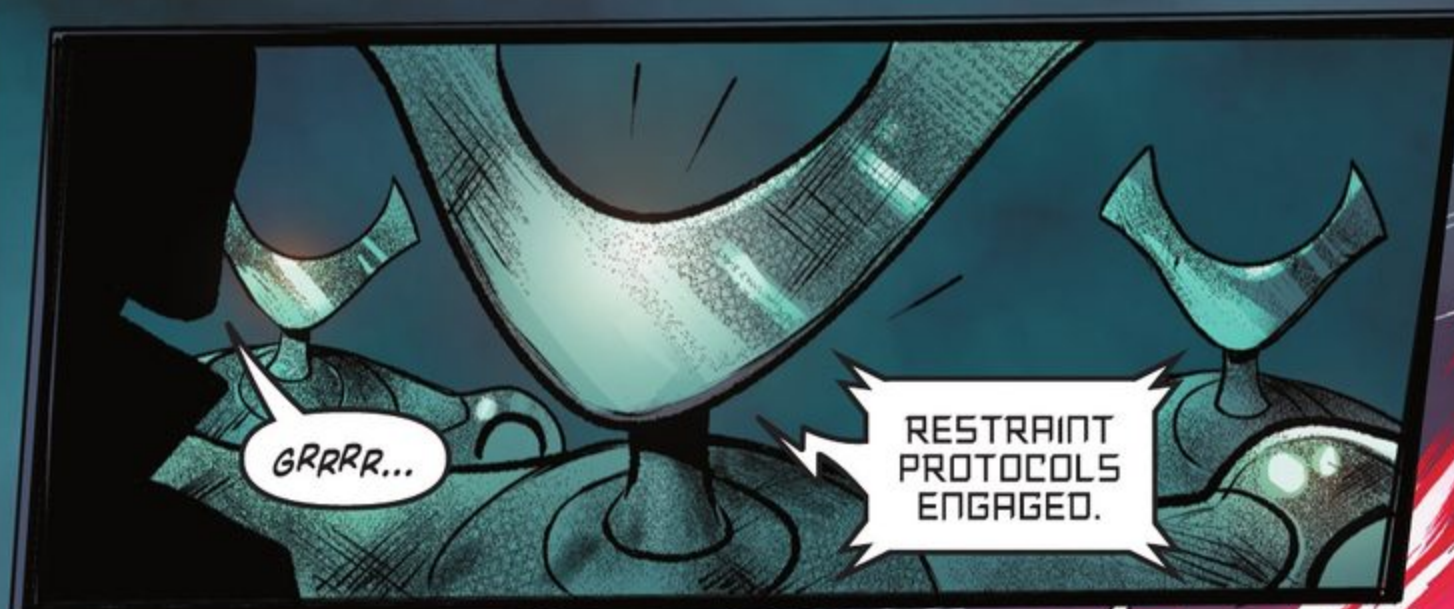
YOU'RE ALL JUST TRYING TO SAVE YOUR PRECIOUS Q-JUNK!



NO, THEY'RE TRYING TO SAVE YOU FROM BECOMING SOMETHING TERRIBLE.

THE ACCIDENT DIDN'T TURN YOU INTO A MONSTER, MELVIN.

IF YOU DO WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING... YOU'LL DO IT TO YOURSELF.







TO BE CONCLUDED!

BATMAN TM *Static* TM BEYOND

BALANCE AND POWER

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BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE **JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.**





Ages 8-12

**Supergirl's summer road trip
through space takes
an unexpected detour!**



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ON SALE MAY 2026

VERTIGO

In 1993, DC launched its Vertigo imprint, a move that represented the medium’s shift towards mature readers storytelling and robust genre exploration. While it included beloved series that were previously a part of the main DC line, Vertigo became defined by original concepts far outside of superheroes—many of which still stand as some of the most influential and revered comics of the modern era.

Readers came to know Vertigo as more than a publishing initiative, but as a sensibility and aesthetic. Comics that were bizarre and beautiful, transgressive and terrifying, poignant and passionate—those were Vertigo comics, and their success reshaped the comics industry itself along the way.

It’s with that spirit that we bring you the DC Vertigo of today. The imprint first returned last fall by adopting the current series that truly embodies its ethos—*The Nice House by the Sea* by James Tynion IV and Álvaro Martínez Bueno—and it now expands with a slate of all-new series from bold and imaginative voices, starting in February of 2026 with *Bleeding Hearts* by Deniz Camp and Stipan Morian, *End of Life* by Kyle Starks and Steve Pugh, and *The Peril of the Brutal Dark: An Ezra Cain Mystery* by Chris Condon and Jacob Phillips.

DC VERTIGO IS BACK. AND IT’S NOTHING YOU’VE SEEN BEFORE.



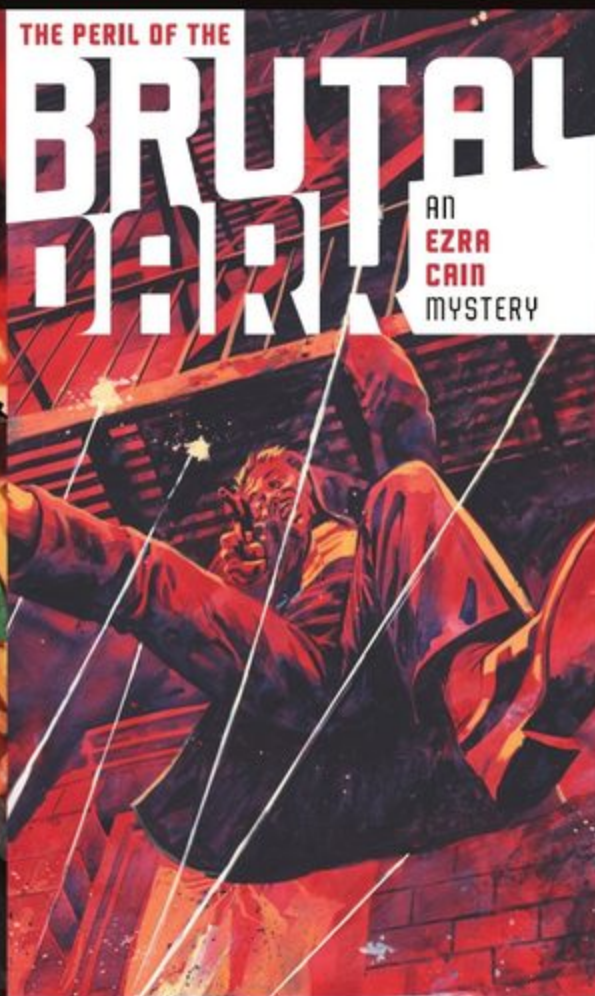
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